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The methods outlined above yielded very satisfactory preparations for the study of these cestodes and they have also been used by the writer on other cestodes and on trematodes with great success. It is noteworthy that the carmine stains give beautiful preparations of trematodes in toto but fail almost entirely for cestodes. For the cestodes these stains fail because they do not sharply and clearly outline the sexual organs as they do in trematodes, though not better than do the hæmatoxylin. In the judgment of the writer the use of the carmine stains on cestode material has been responsible for many errors in the interpretation of cestode structures.

CULTIVATION OF PLASMODIUM OF BADHAMIA

Hilton (Jour. Queck. Micr. Club, Nov. 1914) describes a method which he has found successful for the continuous cultivation of plasmodia of the Myxomycete, *Badhamia utricularis*. He uses bread which is kept moistened with water. He finds that it stimulates the growth of the plasmodium to use from time to time, instead of pure water, a mixture consisting of a quart of water to which has been added half an ounce each of ammonium phosphate and cane sugar. This seems to give greater vigor to the plasmodium itself, and also aids it indirectly in that it stimulates the growth of the filamentous moulds which grow on the bread and are used by the plasmodium. It would be interesting to know whether this method would serve for other species.

DAPHNIA WITHOUT SEXUAL FORMS

Banta (Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. and Med., 1914, p. 180) has reared *Daphnia pulex* thru one hundred generations without males and fertilization. There is no apparent decrease of vigor or vitality, and thus the sexual cycle seems not to be inherently necessary, altho males have been found in nature at Cold Spring Harbor.

VERTEBRATE EMBRYOLOGY

In this new work on Embryology, Dr. Prentiss undertakes in one volume to give a working account of the development of the chick and the pig, together with a description of the stages of human embryology, histogenesis, and organogenesis. The figures are

numerous and beautifully presented; the text is clear and satisfactory. The figures, some of which are in colors, include a large number of whole embryos, dissections, and reconstructions. After a study of these the serial sections can be related to the whole in such a way that the student can readily visualize the plane and level of his section. The book is practically a matrix of human embryology in which are imbedded the special chapters on the embryology of the chick and pig. Numerous statements of a comparative character are included. The treatment is such that the book will be of distinct value and interest to any student of vertebrate structure and development.

The arrangement of the chapters is as follows:—Chapter 1, The Germ Cells; 2, Segmentation and Formation of the Germ Layers; 3, The Study of Chick Embryos, of twenty-five hours, thirty-six hours, and fifty hours; 4, The Fetal Membranes and Early Human Embryos; 5, The Study of Pig Embryos; 6, Methods of Dissecting Pig Embryos,—with further studies upon the development of the head; 7, Entodermal Canal and Its Derivatives (chiefly human, as are the succeeding chapters); 8, Urogenital System; 9, Vascular System; 10, Histogenesis; 11, Morphogenesis of the Central Nervous System; 12, The Peripheral Nervous System.

The writer calls attention to the value of a study of Embryology to the medical student, in that it aids the understanding both of normal anatomy and of the meaning of anomalies. He also insists that the view of medical graduates that it is no longer a fruitful field of research is false. Aborted embryos and those obtained by operation in case of either normal or ectopic pregnancies should always be saved and preserved by immersing them intact in 10 per cent formalin or in Zenker's fluid. An Institute of Embryology has recently been established by Professor F. P. Mall of the Johns Hopkins Medical School for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and studying human embryos. Material may be sent there with assurance that it will be used to the best possible advantage.

An adequate index concludes the book. The mechanical make-up is all that can reasonably be asked.

A Laboratory Manual and Text-Book of Embryology, by C. W. Prentiss, Ph.D. Octavo of 400 pages with 368 illustrations. 1915. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia and London. Cloth, \$3.75.